

#### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3-13, 16-26, and 29-30 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 5-7, 16, 18-20, and 29 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 14-15, and 27-28 have been cancelled. New claim 31 has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the pending claims 3-13, 16-26, and 29-30 are patentable over the art of record and allowance is respectfully requested of claims 3-13, 16-26, and 29-30.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 8-13 and 21-26 are allowed over the prior art made of record. New system claim 31 is similar to method claim 8, and Applicants respectfully submit that claim 31 is in condition for allowance.

Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-4, 16-17, and 29-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 3, 16, and 29 to place them in condition for allowance. Claims 4, 17, and 30 depend from claims 3, 16, and 29, respectively, and so are also in condition for allowance. Claims 5-7 have been amended to depend from claim 3. Claims 18-20 have been amended to depend from claim 16. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-7 and 18-20 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-2, 7, 14-15, 20, and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deutsch et al. ("Storing Semistructured Data with STORED") in view of Meltzer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,391). Applicants respectfully traverse, but, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-2, 14-15, and 27-28 and have amended claims 7 and 20 to place them in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot.

Claims 5-6 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deutsch et al. in view of Oracle ("LOBS: Best Practices", Oracle 9i Application developer's Guide – Large Objects (LOBs)). Applicants respectfully traverse but, in order to expedite

prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 5-6 and 18-19 to place them in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims 3-13, 16-26, and 29-30 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0460.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact her at (310) 553-7973 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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